

Common and Proper Nouns

A noun names a person, a place, a thing, or an idea. A **common noun** names any one of a group—not a specific person, place, thing, or idea. A common noun is *not* capitalized. A **proper noun** names a specific person, place, thing or idea. A proper noun is capitalized. (See 754.1 and 754.2 in *Texas Write Source* for more information.)



Examples

Common Nouns

man
book
city
team

Proper Nouns

José
American Heritage Dictionary
Baltimore
Chicago Cubs

Directions

Underline the nouns in the sentences that follow. Write “C” above each common noun and “P” above each proper noun. The first sentence has been done for you.

1. The ^Cwords in our ^Clanguage have been put into eight ^Cgroups called the ^Cparts of ^Cspeech.
2. A noun is the part of speech that names a person, a place, a thing, or an idea.
3. Common nouns name common things: roads, cars, teams, and so on.
4. Proper nouns are more specific: Avery Road, Ford, and New York Yankees.
5. Can you pick the proper nouns out of this list: Saturn, meteor, rainbow, *Apollo*, John Glenn, Labor Day?
6. Remember, common nouns name common things and are not capitalized; proper nouns name specific things and are capitalized.

Directions

Study the two lists of nouns that follow. Then add three nouns to each list. Make sure your nouns fit with the rest of the words in each list.

clock
book
car
group

Big Ben
Gentle Ben
Volkswagen
Eagles

Directions

On the lines provided below, explain the difference between the nouns in the two lists above.

Note: Share your explanation with one of your classmates. Then compare it with the explanations in *Texas Write Source* at 754.1 and 754.2. How closely does your explanation match the ones in the book?

Next Step Select one noun from the first list at the top of this page (*clock* through *group*) as the beginning of a concrete poem or an acrostic poem. (See page 379 in *Texas Write Source* for help with your poem.)